#### DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 092 069 IR 000 610

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TITLE Virginia: A TV Social Studies Experience. A

Background Paper.

INSTITUTION

Old Dominion Univ., Norfolk, Va.

PUB DATE Apr 74

NOTE 26p.; Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association (59th,

Chicago, Illinois, April 1974)

EDRS PRICE MF-\$0.75 HC-\$1.85 PLUS POSTAGE

DESCRIPTORS Geography; Grade 4; Grade 7; Grade 11; Grade 12;

\*History; \*Instructional Television; \*Social Studies

Units; State Curriculum Guides; \*State Programs

IDENTIFIERS Virginia: Virginia Council for the Social Studies

#### ABSTRACT

This report describes an instructional package designed to replace a set of unsatisfactory textbooks used to teach State history, government, and geography to 4th-, 7th-, 11th-, and 12th-grade students in Virginia. The format of the package, taking what is described as the "inquiry approach", revolves around a series of short television programs with pre- and post-viewing classroom activities. The report is divided into three major sections. The first discusses instructional methodology--inquiry, concept learning, and valuing. The second describes the format of a typical unit of instruction, and the third reviews the extant literature on research in instructional television. Two typical lessons are attached as appendixes. (WDR)



VIRGINIA: A TV SOCIAL STUDIES EXPERIENCE

A Background Paper

bу

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## I. Introduction

Like a few other states, Virginia also requires the teaching of state history, government, and geography. The Virginia History and Government Textbook Commission was created by a resolution adopted by the Virginia Ceneral Assembly during its 1950 session. The Commission's purpose was to "make available the necessary textbooks in order to place emphasis on the teaching of these subjects in the public schools." Unable to find suitable books in the commercial market, the Commission contracted a group of authors to prepare different textbooks for grades 4, 7, 11, and 12.

These textbooks were ill-conceived and poorly written from the beginning. In spite of several revisions, complaints from teachers in the field demanding better materials continued to mount. Finally the Virginia Council for the Social Studies put enough pressure on the State Board of Education to cause these materials to be withdrawn from the state's approved textbook list.

A distinguished panel of researchers, consultants, curriculum committee members, and reviewers were assembled to work out details of the replacement instructional materials. Dr. Barry K. Byer of Carnegie-Mellon University was the chief consultant. It was his idea that the improvement of classroom i struction could best be achieved by the inquiry approach, utilizing a series of short TV programs with pre and post-viewing classroom activities. The first product was: Virginia! A TV Social Studies Experience. This package was designed especially for children in grades 4 through 7.

A new committee is presently working on secondary level materials, and these should be available by 1975.

<u>Virginia</u>! is a series of fifteen 20 minute TV programs and forty-five inquiry oriented pre and post-viewing lessons about the Commonwealth of Virginia, her land and people, her customs and problems, her past and future. The series focuses on the diversity that makes Virginia and Virginians a microcosm of America and the world.

# II. Instructional Methodology

The <u>Virginia!</u> series uses three basic teaching strategies: inquiry concept learning, and valuing.

A. <u>Inquiry</u>. Children are encouraged to use a 4-step scientific approach to the inquiry process:



- 1. Define a question to be answered and/or a problem to be solved.
- Make a set of tentative hypotheses about possible answers or solutions.
- 3. Test the tentative hypotheses against evidence, where testing includes:

Identifying needed evidence
Collecting that evidence
Classifying that evidence
Interpreting that evidence
Using that evidence to check the accuracy of the tentative hypotheses.

- 4. Conclude by making generalizations from those hypotheses which are supported by admissable evidence.
- 8. Concept Learning. Concept learning is a second major feature of the <u>Virginia!</u> package. Children are taught that concepts are mental pictures of a highly personal nature. Using Taba's (1971) model, this package uses the three-stages: concept formation, interpretation of data, and application of knowledge.
  - 1. Concept Formation. This step is designed to diagnose the state of the students' existing conceptual network, rather than to systematically teach a new concept. By sharing conceptual networks, students can modify their conceptualizations. This is accomplished with free responses to open-ended questions: such as, 'What do you think of when you hear the word, Virginia?" After building a data bank of descriptors for the word, students are then asked to organize the descriptors into groups by identifying common properties; and they must then determine logical classified ordering of those icems, to include super or subordinate status. The key concepts of the package: cooperation, interdependence, differences, and causality, were selected for their power to organize and to synthesize large amounts of information. Each of the key concepts help to form a heirarchy in the sense that each can be acquired and used on different levels of abstraction, complexity, and generality.
    - 2. Interpretation of Data. This stage aims at a different instructional outcome. The main idea here is to get students to discover relationships among given sets of ordered data, and then to make tentative hypotheses which are supportable on some logical bases. Lastly, the student must test his hypotheses against the evidence.
  - 3. Application of Knowledge. Unless students can transfer previously learned knowledge to a novel or unknown situation, then instruction has but precious little relevance for future life events. This stage of the instructional process for the Virginia! series requires pupils to analyze the dimensions of a new problem, recall relevant information through devices such as retrieval charts, then to generate a set of new hypotheses, and to test the hypotheses as a final step.



- C. Valuing. There are numerous occasions in the Virginia series where atudents are asked to infer and interpret the feelings and attitudes of others from a wide variety of materials, and to make generalizations about these experiences. The social attitudes, and feelings toward important topics and issuessome of which are controversial. The Virginia package uses three strategies in the teaching of values: exploring feelings, interpersonal problem solving, and analyzing values.
  - 1. Exploring Feelings. In this stage students are encouraged to: make inferences as to how other people feel and why, recognize that people will react differently to any one given event or situation, explore reasons for their own emotional reactions in similar situations, make comparisons of their feelings with the feelings of others.
  - 2. Interpersonal Problem Solving. Students are presented with a problem situation involving conflict among persons or groups. They are asked to propose and defend solutions, relate the events to similar experiences they have had, evaluate the way they themselves handled the similar problem and to consider possible alternative ways of handling their problem.
  - 3. Analyzing Values. In this strategy students are asked to first recall information about specified behavior on the part of a group or individual. They are then asked to explain why they think such behavior occurs. The next step requires students to infer what values are implicit in the demonstrated behavior, and to make a hypothesis about that behavior and its implied values. The last step requires comparisons among the various values discussed by the class.

# III. The Format of a Typical Unit of Instruction

- A. General Information. Today we are going to look at one unit of instruction entitled, "Virginia's Heritage." The unit consists of a lead-in lesson, a television lesson, and two follow-up lessons.
- B. The Lead-In Lesson. Attached is lesson 38, "Historic Virginia."
- C. The Television Lesson. Lesson 39, "Virginia's Heritage: Part I," today we will see a portion of this lesson by way of a color videotape and a monitor.
- D. First Follow-up Lesson. Attached is lesson 40, "How Long is a Century."
- E. Second Follow-up Lesson. Attached is lesson 41, "Life in Old Virginia."
- F. The Many Uses of Video-Tape. Although Virginia now has five regional educational television stations, their coverage still has some fringe



F. (Cont.) reception areas, and some of our more remote areas are totally blocked by mountains. Tapes are being mailed to the remote areas and shown on monitors via cassettes, much as we will see today. Also, scheduled shows on regular ETV are often not timed with what is going on in a particular classroom; thus tapes can be used at the most meaningful movement of any instructional sequence either on closed or cable networks, or on individual classroom cassettes and monitors. And, of course, tapes can be used for regular broadcasting to a wide audience. Tapes are canned, stored, and retrievable; thus, they epitomize the best in convenience packaging.

# IV. Research on ITV

- A. A General Review. There have been more than 1900 research investigations aimed at finding how the use of television effects the learning process. A comprehensive review of the best of this research effort has been summarized by Chu and Schramm (1967). general, research shows that television can be used effectively to teach any subject matter where one-way communication aids learning. Obviously, a TV set cannot reach out a hand and pat a child on the back and give words of praise. This is the same kind of criticism leveled at the laws of learning and the whole field of technology in learning, as recently made by McKeachie (1974). Immediate reinforcement in the teaching process, which ignores the human element in the affective domain, is an area that technology has not yet satisfied. The greatest effect of ITV on the learning process, therefore, depends heavily on the participation of classroom teachers who use pre and post-viewing learning activities which provide opportunities to discuss, clarify, and give sequential ordering of the main idea being investigated.
- B. Recent Related Research on ITV. Two colleagues of mine at Old Dominion University, Raymond and Kersey (1974), recently conducted an experimental evaluation of ITV materials in elementary science that they had developed. They used a modified Solomon (1949) control group design, as indicated below:

Group A	ITV Lesson	Follow-up Activities	Test
Group B		Follow-up Activities	Test
Group C	ITV Lesson		Test
Group D			Test

In the reported results, using a Scheffe Comparison of Mean Scores ANOVA, Raymond and Kersey found that Group A showed significance beyond the .01 alpha level of confidence.

C. Research on the Virginia ITV Project. Bruce Gansneder and Dan Ball, both of the Bureau of Educational Research, University of Virginia, are currently collecting state-wide data for an evaluation of the Virginia series. Because of the massive size of this research project, the final results are not available at this time. Expected availability of this data is September 1974.



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#### HISTORIC VIRGINIA

Goal:

To introduce a sense of Virginia's past

Objectives:

Knowledge:

To know some significant events from Virginia's past

To know that Virginia has a long past

Skills:

Given dated cards, to classify them different ways

Given information, to identify main unifying themes.

## Attitudes and Values:

To contribute to group discussion by contributing ideas

To be sensitive to the feelings and ideas of others

Materials:

History cards

(Some student texts and encyclopedias on Virginia will be needed in the next lesson.)

Teacher

Purpose

Students

 Divide the class into groups. Have each group Directions

Form groups of

four or five

students.

push several desks together



to make a table area.

2. Distribute one set of history cards to each group. Direct them to spread them on the table in front of them. Ask questions to make certain the students can read the cards: When did the English first attempt to settle in Virginia? Where was it? Etc.

Translating information

Spread cards
in any order,
face up.

ards represent some big events in Virginia's history. Have each group put the cards into piles of similar things. Suggest that one pile could be all items about wars. Have the groups proceed to do this. Provide individual help if needed.

Grouping (classifying)

Wars Education People

Groups could

Laws New things

4. When the groups have

Labelling

Virginia's past



finished, discuss the different kinds of events
that have occurred in
Virginia in the past.
List these on the board.

classes of information

includes:

wars
concern for
education
inventions,
etc.

spread the cards out
again and then regroup
them by centuries--all
those in the 1600's in
one pile, etc. What seem
to be the main things
typical of each century?

Reclassifying information

Group by centuries: 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th

Perhaps--

17th century--setting up a new colony

18th century--getting freedom etc.

6. Then direct the groups to rearrange the cards in the order in which the events occurred. Have the students make a timeline by thumbtacking the cards along a piece of yarn on

a bulletin board or

pasting them on colored

paper, etc. Then have

Making a timeline Rearrange cards by dates.



each group describe the big steps by which Virginia got to be the way it is today.

Translating information

7. Tell the students that in the next lesson the class can watch a television program on Virginia's history to make more historical cards to put on their timeline.

Preparing for the next lesson



#### Note to the Teacher

The following two pages are masters for 20 "history cards," each with a date and description of some event of significance from Virginia's past. Duplicate and cut up a set of each of these cards for every four or five students in your class. If these cards can be duplicated on heavy paper, they will be useful for several years and in several classes.

The events included on these cards represent some of the highlights of Virginia's history. They have been selected to indicate the breadth of Virginia's past, both substantively (items reflect cultural, economic, political and other types of occurrences) and chronologically (approximately five items are drawn from each of the 17th, 18th, 19th, and 20th centuries). If desired, additional cards—or a completely different set of cards—may be made. By so doing, a teacher can localize this lesson by including some historical events in each time period close to the local community.



### Student Material

1781 GEORGE WASHINGTON LEADS
VIRGINIANS AND OTHER AMERICANS TO VICTORY AT YORKTOWN
AND INDEPENDENCE FROM BRITAIN
IN THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR

1861-65 VIRGINIA AND OTHER SOUTHERN STATES FIGHT A WAR AGAINST NORTHERN STATES

AROUND 1600 INDIANS OF 30 VILLAGES IN EASTERN VIRGINIA UNITE WITH POWHATAN AS CHIEF

1607 ENGLISH START A SETTLE-MENT CALLED JAMESTOWN

1959-64 PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY CLOSES PUBLIC SCHOOLS TO AVOID COURT-ORDERED DESEGREGATION 1619 THE EARLIEST AFRICANS
IN THE VIRGINIA COLONY ARRIVE
AT JAMESTOWN AND ARE SOLD AS
INDENTURED SERVANTS

1676 NATHANIEL BACON LEADS REBELLION AGAINST BRITISH GOVERNOR OF VIRGINIA

1693 COLLEGE OF WILLIAM AND MARY ESTABLISHED AT WILLIAMS-BURG



## Student Material

1726 GERMAN AND SCOTCH-IRISH SETTLERS MOVE INTO THE VALLEY OF VIRGINIA 1831 A SLAVE, NAT TURNER, LEADS A REBELLION AGAINST WHITES IN SOUTHAMPTON COUNTY

1888 FIRST ELECTRIC STREET-CARS IN THE U.S. USED IN RICHMOND

1867 HAMPTON INSTITUTE SET
UP AS A NEGRO COLLEGE

1902 NEW CONSTITUTION FOR VIRGINIA REQUIRES PEOPLE TO PAY POLL TAX IN ORDER TO VOTE

1950-60 POPULATION OF ARL-INGTON COUNTY GOES FROM 234,000 TO 438,000

1951 LARGEST PASSENGER SHIP EVER BUILT IN U.S. LAUNCHED AT NEWPORT NEWS 1926-30 GOVERNOR HARRY F.

BYRD ENCOURAGES INDUSTRY TO

MOVE INTO VIRGINIA



1756-1763 VIRGINIA SOLDIERS
HELP DEFEAT FRENCH IN THE
FRENCH AND INDIAN WAR

1775 PATRICK HENRY DENOUNCES
THE KING OF ENGLAND AND URGES
VIRGINIANS TO TAKE UP ARMS

1776 VIRGINIA DECLARATION
OF RIGHTS WRITTEN BY GEORGE
MASON

1819 THOMAS JEFFERSON, THE SECOND OF EIGHT VIRGINIANS TO BE PRESIDENT OF THE U.S., HELPS SET UP THE UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA



# Overview of Television Program #10

# VIRGINIA'S HERITAGE--I

Part I of the two-part Virginia's Heritage program illustrates the big events, trends, discoveries, and famous people who have helped shape Virginia and Virginians into what they are today. Jamestown, the American Revolution, the War Between the States, and the influence of World Wars I and II upon Virginia will be examined, together with contemporary historical events. The emphasis for the most part will be upon social, cultural, and economic events from the days of the colony to the present.



VIRGINIA'S HERITAGE--I

Goal:

To gather information about Virginia's past from a television program

Objectives:

Knowledge:

To know three significant events in Virginia's past

To know that present-day Virginia is largely a product of decisions and events made in the past

## Skills:

Given information, to separate the relevant from the irrelevant

Given sources of information, to use reference books and other guides to find evidence

# Attitudes and Values:

To volunteer to participate in individual research projects

Materials:

Television program--VIRGINIA'S HERITAGE--I

Source materials such as texts and encyclopedias

(A Study Guide will be needed in the next lesson.)

Teacher

Purpose

Students

1. Have the students recall

Review

May refer to their timelines.

some of the big events



of Virginia's past.

- 2. Introduce the television program, VIRGINIA'S HERITAGE. Students should take out scrap paper and watch the program, noting as they do any big events from Virginia's past that they do not have on their timelines.
- dents should list new items on the board. If no dates are given for some items, different individuals should volunteer or be assigned to find them. Other students can print and cut out a new history card for each item and groups can put the items on the timelines.
- 4. At this point, if desirable, the student groups

Directions for using the tele-vision program

Individual work

Collecting information

Collecting new information

Use copies of old texts or of encyclo-pedias as references.

Reclassifying in- Different timeformation for new lines on eco-

# BEST COPY AVAILABLE

can trade cards and redo
their timelines to
specialize in certain
types of past events-Virginia in the Arts,
Virginia People, Virginia Inventions,
Virginia at War, etc.

insights

Concluding

nomic activity,
famous people,
events, etc.,
can be put on
colored paper
and posted
around the
room for later
use.

5. Conclude by having each student examine the timelines and then write a brief paragraph describing either (1) three important things in Virginia's heritage or (2) three ways Virginia today is a product of its past.

Writing a paragraph



### HOW LONG IS A CENTURY?

Goal:

To develop a feeling for the length of Virginia's past

## Objectives:

#### Knowledge:

To know how long a century feels

To know the relative length of time that Virginia was a colony, part of the United States prior to the War between the States, and a State since 1865

### Skills:

Given data, to translate it into other forms

Given data, to make inferences

## Attitudes and Values:

To feel what a century is like

#### Materials:

Study Guide--Lesson 40

(Seé Lesson 41 for materials needed in next lesson.)

Teacher	Purpose	Students	
1. How long is a century?	Introduction	A century is:	
What is a century? What		100 years	
does it feel like? Help		36,525 days	
students compute dif-		876,600 hours	
ferent measures of a century.		three or four generations	



2. How long ago was Jamestown founded? How long is that? To help the students ret a feel for a century or several centuries as a period of time, distribute the Study Guide and have them complete it as directed. Provide individual assistance as needed.

Translating information

Individual work

3. When all have finished, go over the answers to any formation difficult questions, especially 6-10. How much of Virginia's history have the students lived through?

Reporting in-

If they are 10 years old, perhaps about 1/35.

What does this timeline show about Virginia's heritage? List statements on the board. If all students agree, have these statements written in their notebooks.

Generalizing

Student answers to question 5.

If time permits, have the Creative

Students read

students read their answers to part D and permit other students to
(1) answer them and (2) comment about these questions. Note the best answers and use them next time you teach this lesson.

thinking questions written in question

6.



L	e	s	s	O	n	4	0

## Study Guide

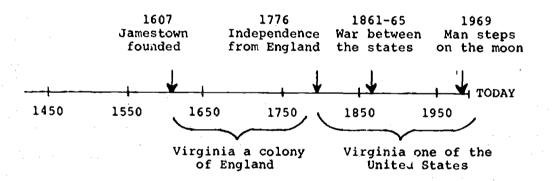
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						_				_	

Name	<b>!</b>	

# HOW LONG IS A CENTURY?

This lesson is about time. It is about years and centuries. Can you imagine what 100 separate years feel like? How long is a century?

Look at the timeline below.



- A. Use what the timeline shows to answer the following questions:
  - 1. What year is it now?
  - 2. In what year was Jamestown founded?
  - 3. How long has Virginia existed? \_\_\_\_\_ years
  - 4. How many years has it been since the end of the War between the States in 1865?
    years
  - 5. Your answer to number 4 is (circle the correct answer):
    - less than exactly a over a over a a century century century
  - 6. In what year were you born?



4	Draw a line on the timeline to mark that year.
7.	How many years have you lived so far?
8.	If you were 10 years old at the time of the War Between the States, how old would you be today?
9.	If you were born at the same time the United States became independent from England, how old would you be today?
10.	If you were born the same year that Jamestown was founded, how old would you have been:
	a) When the U.S. became independent from England?
	b) When the University of Virginia was founded?
	c) When men first stepped onto the surface of the moon?
	d) When Hampton Institute celebrated its 100th birthday?

- B. Write a sentence that tells how many years and centuries Virginia has existed.
- C. Just for fun, write a question which you could ask your classmates to help them better understand the length of a century.



#### LIFE IN OLD VIRGINIA

Goal:

To use previously developed concepts to make meaningful analyses of life in Virginia in selected earlier periods

### Objectives:

#### Skills:

Given information about life in Virginia in a selected period, to use a previously-developed concept to make meaningful statements

Given information, to separate relevant from irrelevant

## Attitudes and Values:

To find satisfaction in participating in group research

To contribute to group research by asking relevant questions and offering ideas and information

#### Materials:

Data Collection Sheet--Lessons 41-42

Pictures of concepts from student notebooks

Texts and other resources

## Teacher

## Purpose

#### Students

Tell the class they can Introduction
 now look at what life was
 like in Virginia about one
 or two centuries ago--in



1850 and/or in 1750.
They can use the ideas they have made about role, landscape, resources, citizenship, etc., to help them in this study.

Divide the class into groups--either voluntary or assigned. Each group should select a different idea (concept) to use to find out what life was like in the period selected. (A data collection sheet such as the following may be distributed, if applicable.) Each group should use the elements of its idea to ask questions about life in the largest town or city, the countryside, and the frontier west for the time period they are investigating. Each group should record

its findings and be

Applying a concept to new all look at information 1750 one day and 1850 the next, or half a group may study 1850

while the other half uses the same concept on data about 1750.

Groups can be

organized to

use ideas of:

role

products resources

landscape land use

citizenship

May use texts



prepared to report them to the class.

on Virginia history, encyclopedias, or other resources.

Group research

3. Student groups conduct Collecting, research. Provide assis- analyzing, tance as needed. concluding

This lesson could take several class periods (for instance one day for 1750, the next for 1850) depending on the depth into which the students go and whether or not all students investigate both 1750 and 1850. Teachers should therefore plan accordingly.



Names	LIFE ON THE FRONTIER/WEST	Student Material
DATA COLLECTION SHEET	LIFE IN THE COUNTRYSIDE	
750 or 1850? dea being used:	LIFE IN THE CITY OR LARGE TOWN	

